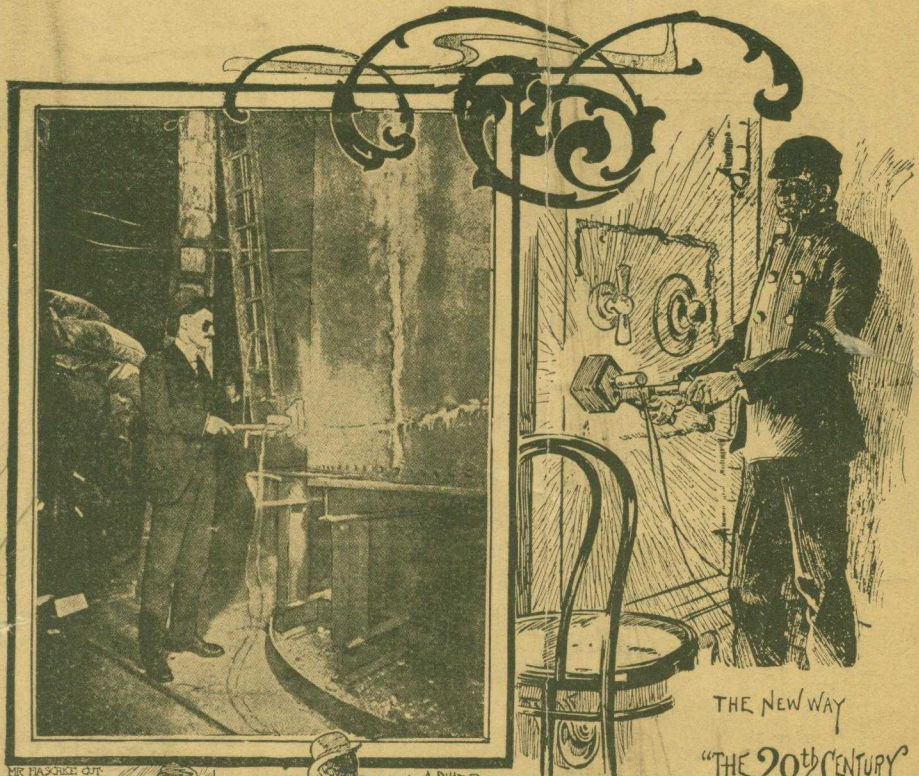


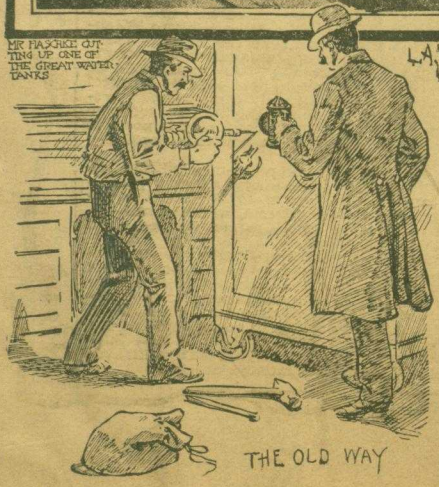
MR PASCHKE CUTTING UP ONE OF THE GREAT WATER TANKS

L. A. SHAFER IN THE N.Y. HERALD

THE NEW WAY

"THE 20th CENTURY BURGLAR"

A REPORT TO THE TREASURER OF THE UNITED STATES.



THE OLD WAY

"NO VAULT IS BURGLAR PROOF."

"Burglars Have a New Chemical Compound Which Softens Steel."

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT RECOMMENDS ELECTRIC PROTECTION.

From Dispatch to Journal and Bulletin, March 19, 1902.

New York, March 19.—There is no such thing as a burglar proof vault or safe, according to a report that was submitted today by Treasury experts to Assistant Secretary Taylor.

The best tempered steel, no matter how thick, is not proof against a new chemical compound, which up-to-date professional cracksmen have learned to use. This compound, called thermite, when mixed with magnesium powder, will destroy the hardness of the metal and rob it of its temper, enabling a burglar with ordinary tools to cut into it as though it were lead. For this reason Mr. Taylor believes the Treasury ought not to continue to expend large sums of money in the construction of so-called burglar proof vaults and strong boxes in which to store Government funds.

The investigation of the reality of the security afforded by these steel structures as made by J. E. Powell, the chief mechanical and electrical engineer of the Treasury, and John P. Bergin, vault, safe and lock expert. These men went to Chicago and other cities and made experiments with thermite and also with electricity. They have come back to Washington convinced that the present value of safes and vaults as against burglars is much overestimated. An application of thermite and magnesium made to a steel plate of the highest temper and five-eighths of an inch in thickness reduced the metal to a condition rendering it possible to cut a hole through it with an ordinary chisel.

The experts have recommended that the best means of security against professional cracksmen is to be found in an electrical signal system, which, when disarranged by burglars or thieves, will sound an alarm.

Messrs. Powell and Bergin say that, inasmuch as the best types of safes and vaults are not invulnerable, it would be advisable, in their judgment, for the Government to install alarm systems in the new vaults, now being constructed at the New York Custom House, at the Sub-Treasury in Philadelphia and wherever else Government moneys are kept.

[ANOTHER DISPATCH.]

CONCLUSIONS OF THE EXPERTS

To the Treasurer of the United States.

Washington, March 24.—When the statement was made public that the Treasury Department had decided there was no such thing as a burglar proof safe it was received with incredulity by eastern bankers and officials of safe deposit companies. Yet such is the fact.

The Treasury Department will buy no more expensive safes. * * * *

It will in the future adopt a system of automatic electric bells.

There is no longer a burglar proof safe. ** Armour plate such as is used on the United States battleships can be perforated as an augur would bite its way through a plank of northern pine. * * *

Conclusions of the Experts.

The Treasury Department experts in their report have reached the following conclusions, which are on file in the office of Assistant Secretary Taylor:

FIRST.—That the best types of safes or vaults are not invulnerable to the attack of the expert burglar.

SECOND.—That the ordinary or obsolete types of safe or vault constructed relatively a few years ago are not invulnerable to the attacks of the tyro or amateur burglar.

THIRD.—That should, by any combination of circumstances, sufficient opportunity be afforded expert cracksmen, any safe or vault can be opened.

FOURTH.—That a satisfactory form of ELECTRIC PROTECTION is both *obtainable* and *desirable* for all safes and vaults wherever applicable, and constitutes a form of *protection superior to that afforded by the construction of the vaults or safes themselves.*

Drill-proof Bessemer or Chrome steel is cut as readily as the softer metal with this remarkable invention.

Electric Protection has been in use for several years by the National Government. The United States Treasury, the Sub-Treasury in New York, and other Government storehouses are well equipped as a result of the findings of a Commission appointed in 1893.

Almost every bank in New York and Boston is electrically protected and connected with the offices of the Holmes Electric Protective Company. This protection is furnished in Providence, by the R. I. Electric Protective Company. Its record is a long and honorable one and the Company deserves and holds the full confidence of the business community.

All of the *Trust Companies*, the Safe Deposit Companies, and *nearly all* of the Savings and National banks, as well as jewelry and department stores, scores of jewelry factories and a large proportion of all the places where very valuable goods are kept, are thus protected. There are only a few opportunities still open to burglars.

No bank can be said to offer modern security which does not have it.

R. I. ELECTRIC PROTECTIVE COMPANY,

32 Custom House Street.

CLEVELAND PUBLIC LIBRARY

OVER.

The R. I. Electric Protective Company

respectfully invites the attention of all unprotected Banks, Manufacturing Jewelers and dealers in Silks, Laces, Furs, Gold, Silver and Precious Stones, or possessors of wealth of any kind that burglars covet,—in Providence and suburbs.

It already protects a very large majority of such possible customers.

THE OTHERS ALL NEED IT.

Its system of protection is recommended and adopted by the United States Government, which considers "even the best types of safes or vaults" wholly inadequate.

It has stood the test of years.

Its service has always been efficient and highly appreciated.

It covers almost all of the field and would like to cover it all.

Its Central Station at 32 Custom House Street is always open, and is worth a visit.

Sole operators of the

Central Office Burglar Alarm System;
Automatic Fire Alarm System;
Auxiliary Fire Alarm System;
Electric Clock System;
Ladd Observatory Standard Time,
Private Fire Alarm Bells.

House Burglar Alarms.

Of 136 Banks, Trust and Safe Deposit Companies in New York, 124 are protected; of 46 similar institutions in Boston, 38 are protected.